

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6375

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S E C R E T BUENOS AIRES 4683

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AR, OAS, XM

SUBJECT: CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER GUZZETTI

1. AMBASSADORS HILL AND RYAN, ACCOMPANIED BY POLITICAL COUNSELOR, CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER JULY 15. AMBASSADOR RYAN OPENED CONVERSATION BY EXTENDING GREETINGS FROM DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND ASKING IF FOREIGN MINISTER HAD ANY FOLLOW ON OBSERVATIONS NOW THAT DUST HAD SETTLED FROM OAS MEETING IN SANTIAGO.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER REPLIED AFFIRMATIVELY. ARGENTINA, HE SAID, IS VERY INTERESTED IN MATTER OF OAS REFORM. THE MORE HE LOOKS INTO THE MATTER, THE MORE HE IS CONVINCED REFORM IS BADLY NEEDED. OBVIOUSLY, HOWEVER, CHANGE MUST BE BROUGHT ABOUT CAREFULLY AND AS A RESULT OF WIDE CONSULTATIONS. ARGENTINA IS STUDYING THE WHOLE QUESTION IN DETAIL AND AT SOME TIME BETWEEN NOW AND THE MEETING EARLY NEXT YEAR WOULD LIKE TO CONSULT AND EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THE MATTER WITH THE US. THE MINISTER INDICATED THAT THE DESIRED CHANGES MUST BE AGREED TO IN ADVANCE BY MAJOR PARTICIPANTS AND NOT LEFT FOR NEGOTIATIONS AT LIMA.

3. IN GENERAL REVIEW OF ARGENTINA'S "NEW FOREIGN POLICY" (I.E., IN WAKE OF MARCH 24 COUP), GUZZETTI SAID ARGENTINA IS
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CONCENTRATING FIRST ON STRENGTHENING ITS TIES WITH NEIGHBORING

COUNTRY (WHICH WAS ALSO MAIN THRUST OF EX-FOREIGN MINISTER QUIJANO'S EFFORTS). IN THIS CONTEXT, GUZZETTI MENTIONED THAT SECURITY/INTELLIGENCE FORCES OF THE SOUTHERN CONE, IN AN EFFORT TO COMBAT MORE EFFECTIVELY "INTERNATIONALIZED TERRORISM," ARE COOPERATING TO A GREATER EXTENT THAN IN THE PAST. FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID, SERVICES ARE NOW POOLING MUCH OF THEIR INFORMATION ON INDIVIDUALS SUSPECTED OF BEING SUBVERSIVES AND COORDINATING EFFORTS AGAINST INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM.

4. IN CONCLUDING INTERVIEW, AMBASSADOR HILL INFORMED FOREIGN MINISTER HE WOULD BE AWAY FROM POST ON LEAVE AND CONSULTATIONS IN US FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. FOREIGN MINISTER ASKED BOTH AMBASSADORS HILL AND RYAN TO CARRY HIS WARMEST GREETINGS TO SECRETARY KISSINGER.

5. COMMENT: IT IS SURPRISING THAT GUZZETTI RAISED MATTER OF INCREASED COORDINATION OF EFFORT ON PART OF SOUTHERN CONE SECURITY FORCES--THOUGH IT HAS BEEN OBVIOUS FOR SOME TIME THAT SUCH COORDINATION EXISTED. GUZZETTI GAVE IMPRESSION OF GREATER COMMAND OF SUBJECTS THAN HE HAS IN PAST, PERHAPS SUGGESTING THAT HE IS BEGINNING TO SETTLE IN AND GET HANDLE ON BUSINESS OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS AFTER YEARS OF COMMANDING SUBMARINES.

HILL

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